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COUNTY COUNCIL OF BERWICK.

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL MEDICINE
TO. PARKS ROAD, OXFORD

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary Conditions of the County

BY

THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER,

FOR THE YEAR 1944.

DUNS:
Printed by Martin's Printing Works, Ltd.,
48 Market Square.

To the Department of Health for Scotland and to the County Council of Berwick.

I beg to submit a summary of the work carried out by the Public Health Department for the year 1944. It includes reports by the Engineer and Sanitary Inspectors.

ANDREW A. McWHAN.

County Offices, DUNS.
1945.

LIST OF STAFF.

County Medical Officer of Health and Administrative Officer :—Andrew Alexander McWhan, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer (part time) :—Dorothy Adam, M.B., Ch.B.

Ophthalmic Surgeon :—Gordon Flint, M.B., Ch.B., M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

Surgeon for Ear, Nose and Throat Cases :—Ian Simson Hall, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.E.

Health Visitors :—Jean McIntosh ; Edith Morain (resigned 15th Feb., 1944).
Katherine Smith (appointed 28th March, 1944).

Orthopaedic Nurse :—Miss Sheila Kerr.
Miss Irene Johnstone (part time).

Superintendent of Midwives :—Miss Matheson (appointed Feb., 1944).

Midwife, West District :—Nurse Dowie.

Engineer :—William Knox.

Sanitary Inspectors :—James M. M. Ferguson.
Donald B. Marquis.

County Hospital—Physician :—Lachlan G. Campbell, M.C., M.A., M.B,.Ch.B.,
Matron :—Mary Ewing.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS TO VACCINATION.

These numbered 21, a rate of 5.43 per 100 births.

In 7 cases the machinery of the Vaccination Acts required to be put into operation.

HOUSING.

BUILDING BYE-LAWS.

Improvements of a minor character were approved.

HOUSES BUILT BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

— — — — — —

HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS, 1925 to 1935, AND HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS, 1926 to 1938.

Number of Houses Built or Reconstructed under various Housing Acts to end of 1944 :—

	Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926-1938.	Housing (Scotland) Act, 1919.	Housing (Scotland) Act, 1923.	Housing (Scotland) Act, 1924.	Housing (Scotland) Act, 1930.	Housing (Scotland) Act, 1935.	Housing Agricultural Population (Scotland) Act 1938.	Built by private enterprise since 1918 without financial assistance.	Total
Landward part of Berwick (excluding Burghs) ...	843	—	75	85	89	39	17	108	1,25
Lauder Burgh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	
Duns Burgh	7	8	1	60	64	—	—	23	16
Eyemouth Burgh	—	18	14	58	88	48	—	—	22
Coldstream Burgh	5	12	1	38	16	12	—	2	8
	855	38	91	241	257	99	17	139	1,73

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) (SCOTLAND) ACTS, 1926-1938.

Since the re-adoption of a scheme under this act :—

82 applications for assistance have been made.
Certificates were issued authorising grant in respect of 82 houses.
Grants have been paid by lump sum in respect of 61 houses.
Grants have been paid by instalments in respect of 2 houses.
Work has been completed on 63 houses.
Work has been commenced but not finished on 4 houses.
Amount of grant promised £7,313.

HOUSING (AGRICULTURAL POPULATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1938.

35 applications for assistance have been made.
Certificates issued authorising grant in respect of 30 houses.
Grants have been paid on 17 houses.
The number of houses completed—17.
The number of houses under construction—.
Amount of grant promised £5,120.
Amount of grant paid £3,040.

FOOD SUPPLY.

MILK.

During the year there was exercised as close a supervision as possible of milk production including a systematic inspection of registered dairy premises and methods of production as well as regular sampling of milk.

The next statement shows the progress of milk grading under the Milk (Special Designations) Order.

CERTIFIED LICENCES.

Renewed :—James Calder, Bogend, Duns.
Messrs. Logan & Forrest, Mersington.

TUBERCULIN TESTED LICENCES :.

Renewed :—Robert Hamilton, The Hardens.
D. S. Clark, South Laws.
D. S. Clark, Bellshiell.

New Licences :—William D. Wilson, Magdalenehall.
J. McGregor, Coldstream Mains.
R. & J. Maedonald, Eccles Tofts.
John Roberts, Renton Home Farm.

STANDARD LICENCES.

Renewed :—Laidlaw & Shiell, Ninewells Mains.
Hugh Henderson, Earlston.
James Bell, Gordon

SUPPLEMENTARY LICENCE.

A new supplementary licence for the sale of pasteurised milk in Berwickshire was granted to Galashiels United Co-operative Society, Ltd., Galashiels.

DAIRY HERDS.

Number of Certified or Tuberculin Tested Herds in County ...	9
Number of Standard Herds in County	3
Number of Non-designated Herds in County	61

In the 9 Certified or Tuberculin Tested Herds 1008 animals were tested during the year, 1 reactor being found.

In the 3 Standard Herds 321 animals were clinically examined during the year, no animal being found with a Tuberculous Udder and slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.

In the 61 non-designated Herds and exempted premises 4,425 animals were clinically examined during the year. Six were found to come within the scope of the Tuberculosis Order and were slaughtered.

One case of Anthrax was confirmed during 1944.

No case of Swine Fever was confirmed during 1944.

MEAT INSPECTION.

During the year slaughtering in the County was continued at Duns. Meat inspection continued to be carried out by inspectors of the Council.

INSPECTION OF TINNED AND OTHER FOODS.

Certificates of unfitness for human consumption were issued in respect of the following foodstuffs :—

Tinned meat	175 lbs.
Tinned milk	185 lbs.
Tinned fish	70 lbs.
Tinned vegetables	35 lbs.
Tinned fruit	30 lbs.
Tinned Jam	72 lbs.
Tomato paste	252 lbs.
Cheese	65 lbs.
Bacon	42 lbs.
Butter	6½ lbs.
Oranges	30 lbs.
Total weight	962½ lbs.

MATERNITY AND INFANT WELFARE.

BIRTHS.

Number registered (i) legitimate	358
(ii) illegitimate	29
Still Births	4

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Number of Deaths under one year of age	22
(of which 10 occurred within the first ten days after birth.)	
Rate per 1,000 births	67.01

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Number of Deaths resulting from Miscarriage or Childbirth ...	1
From Puerperal Sepsis	—

REPORT UNDER MIDWIVES' (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1915.

No action was found necessary.

CLINICS AND SPECIAL TREATMENT CENTRES.

During the year three infants were examined by Dr. Flint, School Oculist.

12 children were examined by Dr. Hall, Aural Surgeon.

PUBLIC HEALTH (NOTIFICATION OF PUERPERAL FEVER AND PUERPERAL PYREXIA) REGULATIONS (SCOTLAND), 1929.

Total number of cases of (a) puerperal fever	—
(b) puerperal pyrexia	3
Total number of cases removed to City Hospital, Edinburgh,	
for (a) puerperal fever	—
(b) puerperal pyrexia	1
Number of deaths	—
Cases receiving Hospital Treatment.	2
Removed to County Hospital, Gordon	1

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There was one case.

MATERNITY HOSPITALS OR HOMES.

19 cases were sent to the Royal Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh, one of which was for examination, and 22 to hospital in Galashiels.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.

Six cases were admitted to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, for adenoids, three cases to the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital: three were examined at the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital.

CONVALESCENT HOMES BOARDING OUT, HOME HELPS.

17 children were sent to the County Hospital at Gordon for convalescence.

MATERNITY SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1937.

147 expectant mothers took advantage of the scheme.

SCHOOL CHILDREN.

MEDICAL INSPECTION, SUPERVISION AND TREATMENT.

During the school year ending 31st July, 1944, the Health Visitors paid 294 visits to schools, examined 2,399 children for cleanliness, infectious or contagious diseases, paid 169 home visits in connection with these (practically all verminous, dirty or neglected children), while they paid 353 visits for other reasons, i.e., in following up cases of reported defect or in connection with the escorting of children to hospital. These were in addition to their other duties in connection with Public Health, Tuberculosis and Child Welfare.

Total number of children examined at routine inspections in school year 1943-44 :—

(a) Ordinary Schools :—		
Entrants	343	
Children of nine years	304	
Children of thirteen years	265	
Children of seventeen years	32	
Total	——	944
(b) Other examinations :—		
Special cases	248	
Evacuees	35	
	——	283
Total examined		1,227

Number of individual children inspected at systematic examinations, who were notified to parents as requiring treatment (excluding cleanliness and dental caries) :—

Entrants	108
Children of nine years	104
Children of thirteen years	77
Children of seventeen years	4
	——
	293

PREVALENCE OF DEFECTS.

CLOTHING UNSATISFACTORY	4
FOOTGEAR UNSATISFACTORY	4
CLEANLINESS.	
(a) Head—	
Dirty	6
Nits	16
Vermin	—

(b) Body—	
Dirty	5
Verminous	—
SKIN.	
(a) Head—	
Ringworm	—
Impetigo	1
Other diseases	1
(b) Body—	
Ringworm	—
Impetigo	1
Scabies	9
Other diseases	7
NUTRITIONAL STATE.	
Slightly Defective	64
Bad	3
MOUTH AND TEETH UNHEALTHY	459
NASO-PHARYNX.	
(a) Nose—	
(i) Obstruction requiring observation	11
(ii) Obstruction (probably adenoids) requiring operative treatment	1
(iii) Other conditions	15
(b) Throat—	
(i) Tonsils requiring observation	200
(ii) Tonsils requiring operative treatment	42
(c) Glands—	
(i) Requiring observation	283
(ii) Requiring operative treatment	24
EYES.	
(a) External Diseases—	
Blepharitis	16
Conjunctivitis	—
Corneal Opacities	1
Strabismus	4
Other Diseases	3
(b) Visual Acuity—	
Good	935
Moderate	9
Bad	—
Recommended for refraction	12

EARS	
(a) Diseases—	
Otorrhoea	2
Other Diseases	1
(b) Defective Hearing—	
Grade I.	16
Grade IIa.	—
Grade IIb.	—
Grade III.	—
SPEECH.	
Defective Articulation	3
Stammering	1
MENTAL AND NERVOUS CONDITION.	
(a) Backward	1
(b) Dull	9
(c) Mentally Defective (Educable)	—
(d) Mentally Defective (Ineducable)	—
(e) Highly nervous or unstable	—
(f) Difficulty in behaviour	1
CIRCULATORY SYSTEM.	
(a) Organic Heart Disease—	
(i) Congenital	3
(ii) Acquired	2
(b) Functional conditions	22
LUNGS.	
Chronic Bronchitis	2
Suspected Tuberculosis	—
Other Diseases	2
DEFORMITIES.	
(a) Congenital	4
(b) Acquired (Infantile Paralysis)	1
(c) Acquired (probable Rickets)	9
(d) Acquired (other causes)	102
INFECTIOUS DISEASE	—
OTHER DISEASES OR DEFECTS	9

CLASSIFICATION OF CHILDREN ACCORDING TO DEFECT.

	Number of Children.	Percentage.
1.—Children free from defects	201	21.29%
2.—Children (otherwise free from defects) who suffer from :—		
(a) Defective vision not worse than 6/12 in the better eye with or without glasses	11	1.17%
(b) Conditions of the mouth and teeth requiring treatment	319	33.79%
(c) Both (a) and (b)	18	1.91%
3.—Children suffering from ailments (other than those mentioned in 2) from which complete recovery is anticipated within a few weeks	248	26.27%
4.—Children suffering from (or suspected to be suffering from) defect less remediable than defects specified in 2 or 3 distinguishing cases :—		
(a) Where complete cure or restoration of function (in the case of eye defect, full correction) is considered possible ...	116	12.29%
(b) Where improvement only is considered possible, e.g., without complete restoration of function	31	3.28%
	944	100.00%

RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE IN THE AREA.

Disability.	At Ordinary Schools.	At Special Schools or Classes.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
1.—Blind	—	3	—	3
2.—Partially sighted ...*				
3.—Deaf :—				
Grade 1	3	—	—	3
Grade 11a	4	—	—	4
Grade 11b	—	—	—	—
Grade 111 ... ...*	—	—	—	—
4.—Defective Speech ...*	—	—	—	—
5.—Mentally Defective (Children between 5 and 16 years)				
(a) Educable (I.Q. approximately 50-70) ...				
(b) Ineducable (I.Q. generally less than 50) ...	6	3	1	10
6.—Epilepsy ... ...*	—	—	—	—
7.—Physically defective (Children between 5 and 16 years) —				
(a) Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis (excluding cervical glands) ...	—	—	—	—
(b) General Orthopaedic conditions	196	—	—	196
(c) Organic heart disease	—	—	—	—
8.—Multiple defects ... ...*				

* Figures incomplete.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND CLASSES, INCLUDING OPEN-AIR SCHOOLS.

In 1944 three children were receiving education in the school attached to the Royal Blind Asylum, Edinburgh : two in St. Charles, Lanarkshire, and one in the Waverley Park Home, Kirkintilloch.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT.

DEFECTIVE VISION.

In 1944 134 children were examined by Dr. Flint, the Council's Ophthalmic Surgeon, and spectacles or drug treatment prescribed as required. Of these, 18 were examined at Berwick-on-Tweed, and 5 at Galashiels.

EAR, THROAT AND NOSE.

In 1944 86 children were taken to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, by the Health Visitors on behalf of their parents, for removal of adenoids with or without removal of tonsils.

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

Our records showed that at the end of the year there were one mongolian defective, 8 feeble-minded persons, and one mental defective resident in the County.

MINOR AILMENTS.

Berwickshire has no school clinics, and, consequently, cases which ordinarily would be treated at a school clinic have here to be admitted to the County Hospital. During the year two children were admitted for malnutrition, seven for impetigo, two for verminous infestation, five for scabies, one for ringworm and one for rheumatic condition.

FEEDING OF CHILDREN.

At the end of the year meals and milk were supplied to schools as follows :

Dinners	3
Soup Meals	2
Light Meals (Cocoa)	1
1.—Under the "Milk in Schools" Scheme	—
Number of Schools supplied	12
2.—Not under the "Milk in Schools" Scheme (*i.e.*, Horlicks Malted Milk)	—
Number of Schools supplied	9

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Cases Notified.	Cases removed to Hospital.
Cerebro-spinal fever	3	3
Diphtheria	5	5
Erysipelas	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1
Pneumonia, Acute Primary	20	16
Pneumonia, Influenzal	3	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	2
Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina	36	33
Tuberculosis, pulmonary	19	8
Tuberculosis, non-pulmonary	17	10
Malaria	3	3
Totals	111	83

The cases treated in the Council's Hospital during the year were as follows :—

	In hospital at midnight on 31st Dec., 1943.	Admitted during year 1944.	Cases treated during 1944.	Bed-patient days.
Typhoid Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	5	5	79
Measles Contact	—	1	1	13
Scarlet Fever	2	31	33	1,145
Scarlet Fever Contact	—	1	1	14
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	2	2	37
Vincent's Angina	—	2	2	34
Streptococcal Throat	—	3	3	46
Pharyngeal Streptococci ...	—	1	1	1
Tonsillitis	—	5	5	115
Influenza	1	—	1	158
Pneumonia	5	17	22	548
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	1	1	1
Chickenpox	—	4	4	119
Catarrhal Jaundice	—	1	1	8
Shingles	—	1	1	16
Malaria	—	2	2	10
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	1	13
Erysipelas	—	1	1	21
Mumps	—	1	1	3

	In hospital at midnight on 31st Dec., 1943.	Admitted during year 1944.	Cases treated during 1944.	Bed-patient days.
Rheumatic Fever	—	1	1	29
Pleurisy	—	2	2	57
Other Epidemic Disease	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	16	20	1,147
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System (suspected)	—	4	4	71
Other tuberculous disease ...	—	6	6	220
Other tuberculous disease (suspected)	—	1	1	31
Bronchieactasis	—	1	1	152
Other infectious and parasitic disease	—	—	—	—
Including Impetigo	—	11	11	233
Ringworm	—	1	1	37
Scabies	—	13	13	266
Septic Spots	—	1	1	18
Verminous Infestations	—	2	2	42
Other than infectious or parasitic disease	—	—	—	—
Cancer	—	1	1	40
Diabetes	—	—	—	—
Heart or other Circulatory Disease	—	1	1	20
Bronchitis	—	3	3	55
Rheumatoid Arthritis	—	1	1	4
Rheumatism	—	1	1	5
Sciatica	—	1	1	3
Surgical Conditions	—	3	3	323
Pregnancy	—	13	13	141
Constipation	—	1	1	6
Malnutrition	—	4	4	73
Shock	—	1	1	46
Gastric Ulcer	—	1	1	1
Orthopaedic	—	3	3	162
Exophthalmic Goitre	—	1	1	41
Arterio Sclerosis	—	1	1	9
Incubator baby	—	1	1	16
Baby (mother in hospital) ...	—	1	1	13
Other Conditions	1	2	3	42
	13	179	192	5,684

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

No children received prophylactic injections.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Of the 36 cases of tuberculosis which were notified during the year, in 19 patients tuberculous disease was localised in the lungs and in 17 patients elsewhere.

42 patients received institutional treatment during the year of whom 19 were already in institutions when the year began, 16 for pulmonary conditions and 3 for non-pulmonary conditions. Of the 23 admitted during the year, 13 were on account of pulmonary and 10 on account of non-pulmonary conditions. Three patients died in hospital from pulmonary disease. The year ended with 20 patients under treatment, 15 being pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary.

99 patients were X-rayed.

The number of persons with pulmonary tuberculosis known to be resident in the County at the end of the year was 55.

VENEREAL DISEASES—PREVENTION AND TREATMENT.

16 patients were treated under this scheme during the year.

DIABETES—PROVISION FOR MEDICINE AND TREATMENT.

During the year 12 persons received supplies of insulin free of cost.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

The only mental services provided by the County at the end of 1944 was the provision of mental hospital accommodation at Melrose for certified patients.

SICK POOR.

During the year 1944 the following numbers of Sick Poor received medical treatment :—

	Males.	Females.	Children.	Total.
(a) Persons who received out-door medical relief in the Council's area	33	108	18	159
(b) Persons who received medical treatment under the Poor Law in (1) The Council's institutions, including combination institutions, in which the Council has a share ...	5	6	—	11
(2) other, including voluntary, institutions	1	—	5	6
Totals	39	114	23	176

HOSPITAL SERVICES.

The next statement shows the number of patients sent to hospital under the County schemes and the numbers sent to each hospital.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.	
County Hospital, Gordon	28
Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh	7
Royal Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh	19
Galashiels Hospital	22
Fairmilehead	6
	82
TUBERCULOSIS.	
County Hospital, Gordon	21
Bangour	24
Southfield, Edinburgh	3
Princess Margaret Rose Hospital for Crippled Children	1
Peel Hospital	1
Royal Infirmary	2
	52
INFECTIOUS DISEASE.	
County Hospital, Gordon	55
City Fever Hospital, Edinburgh	6
Sanderson Hospital, Galashiels	4
Berwick Fever Hospital	4
Peebles Military Hospital	2
Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh	2
	73
EDUCATION.	
Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh	86
County Hospital, Gordon	18
Princess Margaret Rose Hospital for Crippled Children, Edinburgh	23
Royal Blind Asylum, Edinburgh	3
Peel Emergency Hospital	2
St. Charles, Carstairs	2
Waverley Park Home, Kirkintilloch	1
	135

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

Turns out	675
Mileage	49,264
Patients carried	1,115

	Miles.	*Patients.*
Infectious Disease cases accounted for ...	2,983	111
Tuberculous cases	5,423	122
Other Diseases	3,947	133
Service Cases	609	13
Education cases	2,974	231
Child Welfare cases	3,731	79
Orthopaedic cases	3,276	102
Public Assistance cases	2,077	40
Blind cases	121	2
Private cases	21,397	282
Other runs	2,726	—
Lumberjacks	—	—
	49,264	1,115

BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1938.

The number of persons on the Blind Roll at the 31st December, 1944, was 25. Two new cases were added during the year, and 3 were taken off the roll.

During the year 239 visits were paid by Miss Campbell, visitor of the Society for Teaching the Blind in their own homes, and in addition 32 visits were paid by the Health Visitors.